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Translated from Icelandic:

Legal Gazette A, no. 25/1993

ACT
governing animal diseases and preventive measures against them

The President of Iceland

makes known: The Althing has passed this Act and I ratify it with my consent:

Art. 1

SECTION 1
Purpose, scope and supervision

The purpose of this Act is:

- a. to promote the good health of animals in the country and to prevent new contagious diseases from being brought to Iceland,
- b. to monitor and prevent the spreading of animal diseases and to work toward their eradication,
- c. to ensure that livestock products, produced in Iceland, be as wholesome as possible.

Art. 2

This Act applies to all diseases in animals, both domestic animals and pets, as well as wild animals.

Art. 3

The Minister of Agriculture is responsible for the supervision of the matters to which this Act applies.

The Chief Veterinary Officer shall assist the Minister and consult with him on everything relating to animal diseases and the execution of this Act.

Community veterinarians, each in their area, shall monitor and work towards improved animal health, and shall monitor their health and be on guard against new animal diseases that may be brought to Iceland or be transferred between quarantine zones.

PLACE AND DATE:

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AUTHORIZED TRANSLATOR

AND

COURT INTERPRETER

Reykjavík, 4. Jan. 1994
Ellen Ingvaðóttir

SECTION II

Definitions

Art. 4

Livestock: Horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, fur-bearing animals, rabbits, and poultry, as well as farmed fish, and other animals kept for domestic purposes. In the event of conflicts arising over the definitions of livestock, the Minister of Agriculture shall rule on the matter.

Animals: All animals, both vertebrates and invertebrates.

Animal diseases: Contagious diseases caused by bacteria or parasites, metabolic diseases, genetic diseases, poisoning and other diseases covered by this Act.

Pets: Any animals kept for pleasure.

Contagious diseases: Diseases or infections which can be carried, directly or indirectly from one animal to another, or between man and animal.

Isolation area: Area of land marked by special lines, rivers, lakes, the sea or uninhabited areas which, along with statutory surveillance and other precautionary measures, form obstacles or absolute closing to animal communication.

Isolation lines: The borders of isolation areas, including fence lines, which are divided into main and extra defence lines.

SECTION III

Duty of notification and disease diagnosis

Art. 5

Any person who has reason to believe that an animal is suffering from a contagious disease covered by this Act shall immediately report this to any veterinarian who can be reached or to the police. The police shall immediately contact a veterinarian. If a veterinarian feels there is a reason to take action, he shall immediately take steps to have his diagnosis of the disease confirmed and to prevent the disease from spreading.

If testing shows or if a veterinarian suspects this to be a contagious disease, specified in Appendix 1 of this Act or a contagious disease previously unknown in this country, the veterinarian shall immediately inform the Chief Veterinary Officer. He shall furthermore take preventive measures against the spreading of the disease or toward its eradication. He shall furthermore prohibit any delivery of the animal or products from being distributed, and shall ensure that the animal is isolated as well as other animals that may be contagious, and isolate their immediate surroundings. He shall also ensure that articles and products that have been in contact with the animal be disinfected or destroyed, and that the animal be put down, or that other measures considered necessary be taken. The owners of animals have the duty to provide all the necessary assistance regarding the precautionary measures taken on the grounds of this paragraph.

If this involves a disease specified in Appendix 2, the veterinarian shall arrange for further testing, and the matter shall be reported to the extent considered necessary.

Art. 6

Everyone involved in veterinarian medicine has the duty to abide by the instructions of the Chief Veterinary Officer regarding the registration of animal diseases and to take the measures he prescribes for precautions and eradication, or as specified in regulations and announcements thereon.

Art. 7

Through the setting of regulations, the Minister of Agriculture implements further provisions on precautionary measures considered necessary in the event of suspected contagious diseases specified in Appendix 1 or if they surface, or if new previously unknown diseases surface in Iceland, including the provisions on quarantine and communication in areas where diseases have surfaced, the isolation of animals, research, the putting down of animals for testing purposes, the taking of samples and the destruction of animal carcasses.

SECTION IV

Preventive measures

Art. 8

According to this Act and subject to suggestions from the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Minister of Agriculture may issue orders on any measures considered necessary to eradicate or prevent the spreading of the animal diseases specified in Appendices 1 and 2, and to prevent danger and damage caused by the spreading of the said diseases. The measures apply to the following:

1. Animals:
 - a. testing, including the taking of samples for diagnosis,
 - b. treatment of diseases,
 - c. immunisation measures,
 - d. marking and isolation,
 - e. monitoring,
 - f. putting down animals and destruction.
2. Livestock products, feed, fertilisers from animal droppings and other infected articles which may be carriers:
 - a. testing for possible contagia,
 - b. pasteurisation, disinfection and sterilisation,
 - c. destruction.
3. Buildings, work sites, machinery, tools, and vehicles:
 - a. cleaning and disinfecting,
 - b. monitoring and isolation.
4. Owners and guardians of animals, their staff, clothes, and equipment which may carry contagia:
 - a. testing, including sampling for diagnosis,
 - b. cleaning, disinfecting and destruction of clothing.

SECTION V

Preventive measures

Art. 9

The Minister of Agriculture is authorised to limit or ban the keeping of animals in specified areas if it may be anticipated, in the opinion of the Chief Veterinary Officer, that the health of the animals may be subject to special threats.

Art. 10

In order to prevent animal diseases from being brought to Iceland, importing the following articles is prohibited:

- a. Hay, straw, livestock manure, humus, compost mixed with livestock manure, raw and lightly salted slaughter products, processed or unprocessed, undisinfected raw furs and hides, meat meal, bone meal, feed goods made from the products or waste of mammals and fowl that have not received the appropriate heat-treatment, blood and plasma, unpasteurised milk or milk products made from unpasteurised milk, and raw eggs.
- b. Wool, used bags or other packaging, unclean clothing and rags, down, feathers, straw rugs, straw baskets, and unprocessed animal hair, as well as used riding clothes, riding gear and other articles that have been used for storing and transporting animals and animal products.
- c. Any used gear for angling.

Despite the provisions of paragraph 1, the Minister of Agriculture is authorised to allow the import of the products listed in a-c, subject to the recommendation of the Chief Veterinary Officer, provided it has been proved that the items in question do not carry any contagia causing animal diseases. The execution of this Article is subject to the provisions of the agreement on the execution of measures on animal and plant health in Appendix 1 A of the agreement on the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Upon recommendations by the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Minister of Agriculture is authorised to allow, for research purposes, the import of the items listed in section a, paragraph 1. If hay or straw is used as packing material for other imported products that are not subject to special licenses, the hay or straw may be imported without special licence if such packing material is not considered contagious. In such instances, the Minister may decide, by regulations, that the provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply for individual items listed there if the items are disinfected when produced or if they are subject to special disinfecting measures before import, and the items are accompanied by certificates on their place of origin, processing methods and their disinfection.

The Minister of Agriculture is authorised to prohibit, by a notice to that effect, the import of other items that may carry contagia.

Art. 11

The Chief Veterinary Officer is authorised to limit or prohibit the transport of animals, articles or equipment between or within isolation areas if he considers this to cause or be likely to cause the spreading of animal diseases.

Art. 12

The Minister of Agriculture decides, upon recommendations from the Animal Disease Committee, which isolation lines shall be maintained. In the same fashion, the Minister may decide on new isolation lines where this is considered necessary. The location of fences shall be selected where the best natural conditions area and where such fences cause as little damage and disruption as possible. Range land-management societies and individual farmer may be deprived of access to their land if considered necessary, provided that efforts are made to compensate them with comparable land in exchange if possible. If an agreement is not reached on land exchange or compensation for the loss of the use of land, compensation shall be determined by court-appointed evaluators. The compensation decided upon shall be paid by the State Treasury and shall be based on the land's utility value.

By a notice, the Minister of Agriculture decides the division of isolation lines into main and extra isolation lines upon recommendations by the Animal Disease Committee.

Art. 13

Animal carcasses, slaughter waste, and slaughter products , which are not utilised or unfit for human consumption shall be treated, stored or destroyed in a fashion that does not cause any threat of contagia or other damaging substances spreading. The same shall apply to animal manure. These products shall, moreover, not be used as animal feed except subject to special permission by the Chief Veterinary Officer. The burial of such products shall be subject to the opinion of the appropriate health authority.

Persons handling, storing or transporting carcasses and slaughter waste to be destroyed or sterilised, or intending to use it for feed production, shall obtain permission by the Chief Veterinary Officer prior to such operations being launched..

Art. 14

Through regulations, the Minister of Agriculture implements further provisions on the treatment, storage and use of food scraps and animal products intended as feed or for the production of feed. The provisions shall specify a licence being required for feed production, cf. Art. 13, on the operation of feed plants and the conditions such plants shall meet, the taking of samples and monitoring to be exercised with such operations in order to prevent the threat of contagion.

Art. 15

The Minister of Agriculture sets regulations on the taking of sperm and artificial insemination, the taking of eggs and embryos, their treatment and implantation in animals. The regulations shall also cover the equipment, the arrangement and operation of artificial insemination stations, and the health requirements regarding the animals from which the sperm, eggs or embryos for transfer are taken, as well as the

health requirements for sperm, eggs and embryos intended for artificial insemination or egg transfer. The Minister of Agriculture, moreover, sets regulations on the health requirements made regarding the animals used as surrogate mothers.

SECTION VI

Costs and compensation

Art. 16

The fees and travel expenses because of the efforts of a veterinarian or others undertaking projects resulting from the execution of this Act as instructed by the Chief Veterinary Officer shall be paid by the State Treasury.

Art. 17

The State Treasury pays the costs entailed in the isolation of livestock, decided upon as a preventive measure regarding the diseases listed in Appendix 1 of this Act, as well as the cost of materials because of the necessary cleaning and disinfection, and the costs entailed in the putting down of animals, the destruction of carcasses and the use of equipment required for the aforementioned tasks. The State pays the costs entailed in the isolation and guarding of areas, provided the isolation is made at the direction of the Minister of Agriculture. The owners of livestock have the duty to provide, free of charge, all manual labour and assistance for the cleaning, disinfecting and putting down of animals.

Art. 18

The costs of isolation and testing of diseases other than those listed in Appendix 1 shall be partly or fully paid by the animals' owners, subject to the decision of the Minister of Agriculture.

Art. 19

The initial costs and maintenance of the main isolation lines shall be paid by the State Treasury. The State Treasury provides the materials for extra isolation lines, whereas their construction, operation and maintenance shall be financed by the relevant municipal funds. Disagreements arising over the division of costs of extra isolation lines shall be settled by the Minister of Agriculture upon receiving comments from the Animal Disease Committee.

Art. 20

The owners of livestock put down at the direction of the Minister of Agriculture upon the recommendation by the Chief Veterinary Officer, have a right to compensation by the State Treasury.

Compensation paid by the State Treasury shall amount to the value of products and operational loss provably resulting from the destruction of the animals. The provisions of this paragraph on compensation may be deviated from when instructions are issued on the reduction of breeding stock.

If partial or full utilisation of the animal products is possible, the value of the products shall be deducted from the total compensation. Compensation shall not be paid for animals negligible value, except for special, valid reasons.

The State Treasury's compensation duty under this Act applies only to livestock.

Art. 21

The right to compensation under this Act shall fully or partly be lost if the owner of the animals has not abided by the provisions of this Act or regulations, and other instructions made under the Act's auspices. The same applies if an owner has obtained an animal he knew, or should have known in light of the circumstances, was suffering from a disease to which this Act applies, or has intentionally or negligently caused his animal to be infected.

Compensation shall not be paid if animals imported to Iceland become infected by a disease less than six months from the date of their import.

SECTION VII

Various provisions

Art. 22

The Chief Veterinary Officer, community veterinarians and their representatives shall, at any time, be authorised access to housing, farms and enterprises where animals or their products are stored, and shall be provided with all necessary information for monitoring and testing as requested on the basis of this Act.

Art. 23

Isolation lines shall be maintained for as long as it is deemed certain that livestock diseases causing major damage are not carried by livestock on the other side of the line, so that communication between the areas may increase the threat of contagion to livestock in the opinion of the Animal Disease Committee.

Therefore, only the Minister of Agriculture is authorised to cancel instructions on isolation lines subject to a detailed health inspection of the livestock in the isolation areas next to the lines and subject to the recommendation of the Animal Disease Committee. The municipalities concerned shall be given the option of becoming the owners of the fences, free of charge, provided that the municipalities ensure that the fences will not cause accidents or damage.

Art. 24

The Chief Veterinary Officer is authorised to direct livestock identification marking in areas where this is considered necessary, at the expense of the livestock's owner. He may also prohibit the use of any kind of livestock colour identification marking in certain areas.

Art. 25

Transporting live sheep across isolation lines is prohibited except due to restocking. Sheep escaping over isolation lines shall be slaughtered. The organs of the sheep in question shall be specially identified and shall be sent immediately for testing. The owner shall be paid compensation according to the decision of the Chief Veterinary Officer for sheep that are slaughtered, provided that their organs have been sent for testing. Live cattle and goats may only be transported across isolation lines provided a

special inspection is made regarding their health. The Chief Veterinary Officer may authorise the transport of experimental and breeding stock across isolation lines.

Art. 26

If an owner or a guardian of animals does not abide by the decision of the Minister of Agriculture as specified by this Act, the relevant chief of police shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the Minister's instructions are honoured. It is not permitted to put down animals or take them away from persons, or exercise other measures as specified by this Act and which may result in significant costs for the owner, unless such measures are approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer. An owner or guardian shall be given an opportunity to express his views before such measures are taken.

Art. 27

The Minister of Agriculture appoints a three-member Animal Disease Committee for a four-year term. The Agricultural Society of Iceland and the Farmers' Union of Iceland appoint one member each. The Chief Veterinary Officer shall chair the committee. The Animal Disease Committee shall have an advisory capacity on measures on the eradication of animal diseases and on any kind of quarantine measures which prevent them from spreading. The Committee shall also be active in the establishment of area committees and shall monitor the operation and maintenance of isolation lines.

Art. 28

In the event of a serious contagious disease surfacing in animals in specified areas, the Minister of Agriculture is authorised, upon the recommendation of the Animal Disease Committee, to appoint a three-member area committee to assist the Chief Veterinary Officer in the execution of any preventive measures and in the eradication of the disease. The Area Committee, along with the Animal Disease Committee, shall initiate the execution of slaughtering, renewal of livestock, clearing the area of livestock and the necessary disinfection measures.

Sheep owners, who have healthy sheep, have the duty to sell all the female lambs they intend to slaughter and their male lambs as needed to the sheep owners who are restocking, cf. paragraph 1.

Art. 29

Through regulations, the Minister of Agriculture implements further provisions on the execution of this Act.

SECTION VIII

Penalty and entry into force

Art. 30

Any violation of this Act, its regulations and the instructions issued according to them shall be subject to fines, detention or imprisonment in the event of serious violations.

Prosecutions of violations shall be carried out under the rules of criminal procedures.

Art. 31

This Act shall go into effect immediately. Upon its entry into force, the following Acts and provisions shall be rescinded:

- a. Act number 3, 14 February 1902, authorising bans on the importation of untanned furs and hides.
- b. Act number 25, 20 June 1923, on tuberculosis in cattle.
- c. Act number 11, 23 April 1928, on measures against foot and mouth disease and other farm animal diseases coming to Iceland, and Art. 24 of Act number 75/1982 and Art. 1 of Act number 16/1952 amending Act number 11.
- d. Act number 23, 10 March 1956, on preventive measures against sensitive sheep diseases and on their eradication, and Act number 12/1967, and Art. 25 of Act number 75/1982 amending Act number 23.
- e. Act number 22, 10 May 1977, on sheep bathing.

Temporary provisions

Regulations, notices, and other instructions that are implemented, under Act number 11/1928 with amendments, Act number 23/1956 with amendments, and Act number 22/1977 on sheep bathing shall remain in force insofar as they do not contradict this Act, until new regulations, notices or other instructions have entered into force.

Appendix I

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO GIVE NOTICE OF DISEASES

Anthrax
Foot and Mouth Disease
Brucellosis
Rabies
Glanders
Bluetongue
Dourine
Scrapie/Bovine spongif. encephalop (BSE)
Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT)
Newcastle disease
Pullorum disease (Salmonella pullorum)
Fowl typhoid (Salmonella Gallinarum)
Vesicular stomatitis
Aujeszky's disease (Pseudorabies)
Transmiss. gastroenteritis (Swine) (TGE)
Sheep pox
Scabies, Sheep scab (Psoroptic mange)

Hog cholera, Classical swine fever
 African swine fever
 Vesicular Exanthema of Swine (VES)
 Swine vesicular disease (SVD)
 Maedi
 Porcine Enteroviral Encephalomyelitis
 Teschen disease (Talfan disease)
 Fowl cholera (*Pasteurella multocida*)
 Ringworm (*Herpes tonsurans*)
 Strangles
 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
 Rinderpest
 Fowl plague (Influenza)
 African horse pest
 Lumpy skin disease
 Rift Valley fever
 Tuberculosis (*M. bov.*, *M. tub.*)
 Endemic abortion of ewes (EAE)
 Redwater in calves
 Contagious equine metritis (CEM)
 Equine inf. anemia (EIA)
 IBR/IPV
 Mucosal disease/Bovine viral diarrhea (MD/BVD)
 Enzootic bovine leucosis
 Hairy shaker disease, Border disease
 Porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome
 Avian tuberculosis
 Viral enteritis (mink)
 Tularemia, Rabbit fever
 Infectious pancreatic necrosis
 Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
 Viral haemorrh. septicaemia

Appendix 2

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT TO RECORD DISEASES

ANIMALS, GENERAL:

Chlamydiosis (*Psittacosis*, *Ornithosis*)
 Pox disease
 Leptospirosis (includ. Weils yellow fever)
 Clostridiosis
 Blackleg (*Miltbr. emfysem*)
 Salmonellosis
 Listeriosis
 Trichinosis
 Hydatidosis (*Echinococcus granulosus*)

HORSES:

Equine influenza
Rhinopneumonitis/virus abort

CATTLE:

Malignant catarrhal fever
Viral Diarrhea

SHEEP:

Pasteurellosis
Johne's disease, Paratuberculosis
Actinobacillosis
Broken mouth
Vibriosis (Campylobacter fetus)
Foot mange, leg mange
Foot rot
Orf, Contagious Ecthyma (CE)
Sheep tick (Melophagus ovinus)

SWINE:

Swine influenza, Hog flu
Necrotic enteritis (Clostr. perfr. type C)
Mycoplasma Pneumonia, Endemic
pneum. (E)
Pleuropneumonia (Haemophilus pleuropn.)
Atrophic rhinitis swine
Erysipelas
Sarcoptes mange
Metritis-mastitis-syndrome, Agalactia (MMA)
Swine dysentery (T. hyodys.)

POULTRY:

Fowl cholera (Pasteurella multocida)
Infectious bronchitis (IB)
Marek's disease
Leucosis
Gumboro disease

DOGS, CATS, OTHER FUR-BEARING ANIMALS:

Scabies
Canine distemper, Hardpad disease
HCC
Nosematosis
Plasmacytosis

FARMED FISH:

Furunculosis (A. salmonicida)
Ulcer disease (H. piscium)

Yersiniosis /Y. ruck)
Bacterial kidney disease (R. salm)
Vibriosis (V. ang)
Myxobolus cerebralis
Gyrodactylus salaris

Done in Reykjavík, 7 April 1993

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir
(L.S.)

Halldór Blöndal

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